

Miscellaneous Editorial Paragraphs

Prayer can never be made a substitute for duty.
Where repentance is possible there is no unpardonable sin.
No circumstances can ever arise that will justify disobedience to God.

Faith is action ; action is life ; therefore faith is life.

History is an inexplicable mystery if we leave God out of it.

The dinner table on Sunday is often a gulf in which the sermon is drowned.

The world owes no man anything, but every man owes the world a pure, sweet and beautiful life.

Rolwand Hill used to say that unless the cat and the dog are the better for your religion it is not worth very much.

Every man in your employ, every servant in your home, every pupil in your class, knows whether you are a Christian or not.

The first call that comes to us is not the call to retribution. It is a call of gentle warning, the first, second, third, fourth, and the hundredth call, for God is infinite in mercy, but at last comes the call to judgment, and to many a human soul it will be a fearful looking forward. Let us live each day as if it were the last one, and when that day does come as it surely will, it will be a day of joy and gladness and blessed peace.

Russian peasants tell the story of an old woman at work in her house when the Eastern sages passed by seeking the infant Christ, and guided by the star. "Come with us," they said ; "we are going to find the heavenly child." "I will come," she replied, but not just now ; I will follow very soon and overtake you." But when her work was done, the star had disappeared, and she never saw the Holy Child. This woman has a numerous posterity. May her tribe decrease.

In the bank of England there is a pair of scales on which every coin that comes into the bank is weighed. If its weight is right it is passed approved ; if it is light in the smallest measure it is by an automatic arrangement thrown aside and condemned. Like the coin our lives are always passing over God's balances. Every motive, every thought, every word, every act, is weighed, and if in the end our lives are found wanting in God's scales, they will be condemned as useless and cast into outer darkness.

It is related of a little girl that when she returned from Sunday school one Sabbath she started to tell the story of the Good Samaritan to her mother. She had forgotten part of the story, and after referring to the selfishness of the priest and Levite, she added, "But by and by a good American came by, and helped the poor man." Would that this new rendering of the story of the Good Samaritan might profitably suggest to America its social and international duty. America is in a position to act the part of the Good Samaritan in its relation to other nations.

There is a very beautiful legend from the heathen land which strikingly illustrates the way the blessings of salva-

tion come to us thru Christ and his gospel. It runs thus : The Valley of Chambrá is rich in its fertility and beauty. The cause of all this fertility is a wonderful spring of water which flows from a hillside and furnishes water for the irrigation of the whole valley and for the use of the people who live there. Once, says the legend, the valley was without water, and there was desolation everywhere. The plants and trees were all withering and the people were dying of thirst. The oracle said that if the princess of the land would die for the people there would be water. She was told of what the oracle had said and hastened to give her life. Her grave was made and she was buried alive, as directed by the oracle. Then forth from her grave came a river which flowed down into the valley, restoring all languishing life in field and garden and sending water to every door for the famishing people to drink. It is only a legend, and a heathen one at that, but it beautifully illustrates what Christ did for the world. It was perishing for want of the water of life. There was spiritual desolation and famishing everywhere ; then came Christ into the world, he died and was buried, and from his cross and grave poured the river of life whose streams make glad the nations of the earth and whose waters now bless all the millions of human lives. Surely the gospel is good news to a lost and sinful world. It is the power of God unto salvation ; it lifts the world out of death into life, out of sin's prison into the blessed liberty of Christ.

Over in the province of Ontario, says the Cincinnati Post, at a little town called Verona, a meeting of a somewhat peculiar religious sect was recently held. The sect is one that is characterized by a great display of zeal, and by a deep and abiding belief in the miraculous powers of faith. The meeting was an earnest, not to say an exciting one, and in the midst of a climax of fervor one of the brothers suddenly claimed that he could fly. Perhaps there was no surprise over this announcement. These believers in the power of faith to move mountains may have had no doubt that the brother had some assurance that prompted him to make this startling statement. Anyway, there was little time for the expression of emotion. The good brother suddenly extended his hands before him and plunged into space. But he didn't plunge far. If he had suspected that his flapping elbows would buoy him up and enable him to float on lazy pinions about the apartment he was greatly mistaken. He leaped in air, and then came down as any other heavy body would. But unfortunately in falling he knocked a large coal oil lamp from the table to the floor, where the burning liquid quickly scattered and set fire to the garments of no less than five men and three women. Of this number five were quite seriously burned. The fire spread and caused a panic and a stampede, and many persons were injured in the wild rush, the man of faith, heading the flying mass, as it were, sought a place of safety. The moral of this story is that so called faith may be merely egotism, or personal puffiness. It also strikingly illustrates the extent to which a misguided faith or religious fanaticism will go. When such people are about to experiment with what they claim is a new power that has come into their life it might be well for them to remember that a little private rehearsing of the grand act would not be out of place.